

Quick Strokes

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American National Standards Committee on Office Machines and Supplies takes a ballot On a skeleton Dvorak-like keyboard

Eleven affirmative, none negative, none abstaining was the tally when American National Standards Committee X4 voted in January, 1980, to submit a draft proposal for a Dvoraklike arrangement of characters on keyboards to the whole membership for ballot by mail.

This draft is for the front three transverse rows (ranks) of keys and includes the alphabetic characters and the punctuation. As far as it goes, it corresponds to the Oregon Alternate arrangement which is favored by the Dvorak International Federation, P.O. Box 73, Portland, OR 97207. The alphabet is in the classic Dvorak pattern, along with lower-case period and comma and the hyphen. The apostrophe-quote pair are at left end, third row up, and the semicolon-colon at left end front row. These are locations D01 and B01 in the notation of the International Standardization Organization.

The X4 committee — scope, office machines and supplies — met on January 16 and 17 at the IBM building on Hotel Circle North in San Diego, California, with the chairman, J. P. Ancona, presiding. Organizations represented at this meeting were ASME, Digital Equipment, Moore Business Forms, the Telephone Group, Xerox, ACM, National Secretaries' Association, IBM, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Bureau of Standards, Burroughs, and 3M.

Philip Davis, of West Sacramento, California, chairman of an X4 subcommittee called Working Group X4DSK, made the presentation, reporting that after long discussion the 23-member group had reached a consensus on the subset standard and that a draft for a proposed standard for four varying sets of characters on boards of 44 and 48 keys is in preparation. The sets of 96 characters are used for some composition in English and, with modifications, will permit writing in foreign languages without too much distortion either of the languages or of the principles of Dvorak character placement.

If the draft is approved by a consensus of X4, the next step is publication in *Standards Action* for comment by readers. SA is published by the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.



Susan Ellena

New South Wales state government Becomes a Dvorak keyboard user

Eight operators for the Transcription Department of state government in New South Wales, Australia, have been in training at Dvorak-arrangement keyboards since January 7, 1980. The instructor is Ronald Watson, of Newport Beach and Sydney.

Four of the student operators have continued with their work at traditionally arranged keyboards; four others are assigned to other work while in retraining. Training sessions are of two hours on every working day. On the ninth day, Watson reports, two students scored 40 gross words per minute on the ASK variant of the Dvorak arrangement, and all the others were close to that level.

The department has purchased fourteen ASK typewriters of SCM make, and is in the market for other equipment with the same arrangement.

Watson plans to arrive in the United States in May, 1980. Philip or Harriet Davis, telephone (916) 446-3377, will try to relay phone calls.

Aetna Insurance Co. makes a start On more efficient keyboard input

From Virginia Russell, of Brandon, Vermont, we learn that the home office of the Aetna Insurance Co., in Hartford, Connecticut, has ordered Dvorak instruction kits from Sue George, of Portland, Oregon, and typewriters with an acceptable variant of the Dvorak arrangement on the keyboards, from IBM Corp.

The Aetna management plans to retrain a small number of its in-service operators to start with, perhaps with an eye to filling vacancies with pretrained Dvorak-skilled operators later on. Some Aetna operators may have acquired some Dvorak skill already, for Mrs. Russell took her own SCM electric typewriter with a Dvorak arrangement on its keyboard, with her on a personal call and loaned it to the Aetna project leader.

Mrs. Russell, an active — and effective — member of the Dvorak International Federation, lives at 11 Pearl St. in Brandon, and the zip is 05733.

Olivetti smells the coffee, puts on A keyboard connoisseur — in sales

Michael Schmitt reports from Chicago that he has accepted a position with Olivetti Corp. of America at its Chicago office, involving promotion for the hybrid Model ET 221 — a hybrid in the sense that two quite different arrangements of characters coexist in the same machine. Conversion from one to the other is quick.

The two arrangements, of course, are the traditional, arbitrary "qwerty" and the newer, rationally designed Oregon Alternate, "OAKA", a variant of the Dvorak arrangement.

A production prototype is said to be on hand at Olivetti Chicago and may be on display at some equipment shows this year. It has a two-line memory, permitting alterations and corrections before the text is impressed.

Schmitt is known to some Quick Strokes readers as an active member of American National Standards Working Group X4DSK.

Prof. Wells will present paper on Dvorak Keyboard at CBEA convention

"Why Not the Dvorak Keyboard?" is the title of a paper to be presented at the 1980 convention of the California Business Education Association by Virginia A. Wells, a faculty member in the School of Business at Oregon State University. Prof. Leonard West, of the City University of New York, author of "Acquisition of Typewriting Skills," will lead two workshops on Saturday afternoon, March 29.

The convention is at the Sheraton Hotel, Anaheim, California, on March 29, 30, and 31. The workshop under Prof. Wells is scheduled for 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on Sunday, the thirtieth.

Membership in CBEA is handled by Mrs. Lee Thompson, of Los Altos, telephone (415) 968-6183.

Carmel Middle School champion shows In Central Coast student contest

Susan Ellena, seventh grade, from Carmel Middle School, competing with students up to ninth grade, came in third in the beginners' division of the California Business Education Association's 1980 typing contest, Central Coast section.

Susan's keyboard arrangement is the AS, the Smith-Corona variant of the Dvorak. Her score, 56 words per minute, gross, "wowed the opposition," says A. C. Kolb, her teacher.

It was the first contest outside Susan's own school that she had entered, and the first for any of Kolb's students.

Considering the stress that Susan worked under, Kolb regards her performance as highly creditable, and so does Quick Strokes. She is champion at CMS, but at Pacific Grove, the contest site, she competed against the best from an area extending from Pacific Grove to Atascadero.

The contest took place Feb. 1. It is an annual event, and CMS students and teacher are looking forward to next year.

Minnesota Word Processing Association Presents world champion keyboard operator

Barbara Blackburn, of Everett, Washington, has accepted an engagement to perform at the typewriter keyboard at seminars under auspices of the Minnesota Word Processing Association on April 29 and 30, 1980, at the Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis. The same organization heard Philip Davis in 1976 and Patricia Wells in 1978. Mrs. Blackburn will demonstrate on an SCM Corona-matic 7000 and probably also on various word processing units that are available with a Dvorak arrangement of the keyboard.

Every trimester — Dvorak keyboard Input pretraining going on

"Newsletter, February, 1980, Clover Park High School, 11023 Gravelly Lake Drive S. W., Tacoma, Washington, James G. Ellingson, principal, Nancy Mace, newsletter editor . . .

"Twelve beginning typing students in Mr. Hadlund's and Mr. Smith's classes are learning the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard while their classmates are learning the more traditional Qwerty keyboard. Long recognized as faster, more accurate, and easier to learn, the Simplified Keyboard places the most-used letters in 'home row.' Students are given their choice of which keyboard they would like to learn. The keyboard itself is not changed but a decal is used to show where the key locations are, and the element can be changed from one to the other on the Selectric typewriters. The average speed of the DSK typists after four weeks of instruction is 34 words a minute."

olivetti IN 1980 A "FLICK OF A SWITCH" DOES IT ALL

Olivetti Corporation is proud to announce the world's first switch-selectable DVORAK/QWERTY electronic typewriter.

Now typists with DVORAK or QWERTY skills can utilize either keyboard by simply flicking a switch. No more constraints on who can use the typewriter. No more restrictions on type style or pitch. No more problems with poor print quality. Olivetti's solid-state computer chip allows for instant conversion.

And, unlike a conventional typewriter, Olivetti's ET 221 boasts timesaving features. A display for electronic correction, quiet "daisy wheel" printer (over twenty type styles to choose from), interchangeable ribbons, right margin justification, memory playback, and bold printing. Automatic features include underlining, centering, decimal alignment...even carrier return.

For more info concerning Olivetti's remarkable ET 221 contact Michael Schmitt, OLIVETTI CORPORATION, 816 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 939-3577.

ENTER THE DVORAK DECADE WITH A MACHINE THAT'S ALREADY THERE.
THE OLIVETTI SWITCH-SELECTABLE ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER.

This ad was composed on the ET 221.



Erratum

Please dig out Quick Strokes 20, Winter, 1979, and strike out, on page 4, the last three paragraphs of "Personal Computers". The "SAM 76" document is not a Tandy Corp. publication. Mercer County, N. J., readers, please set us straight.

ASK SCM's — some in stock can ship pronto. 10% discount for cash with order only. ASK US for info. Belmont Adams, 4 Park Ave., Scarborough, ME 04074.

FOR GRADUATION IN JUNE, 1980

Specifying Oregon Alternate arrangement (apostrophe in third row up). Best to order now. SCM Coronamatic 2500, \$384.50; SCM Coronamatic 1200, \$299.50. For delivery in California, please add 6% sales tax. Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Phone (916) 446-3377.

If you knew Rico Heidelberg, please Put your recollections in writing

The death of Rico Heidelberg, reported in Quick Strokes 22, must have been due to anaphylaxis, defined as a severe allergic reaction. He was, it appears, a fatality of the Viet Nam war. As a combat infantryman, he took a bullet through the throat and ever afterward suffered constantly from asthma and occasionally from anaphylaxis. This time, he died at the wheel of the family car, almost surely on his way to a hospital.

The widow, Emma Schmid-Heidelberg, Jasminweg 15, CH 8050, Zurich, Switzerland wants contributions to a book on Rico's short, intense life. Emma is, as Rico was, a persevering advocate of the Dvorak arrangement of characters on keyboards.

Manuscript received

Prof. Hisao Yamada, of the Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo, has submitted, for comment by Quick Strokes's editor, Philip Davis, a draft of a 102-page treatment under the working title of "A Historical Study of Typewriter and Typing Method from the Position of Planning Japanese Parallels."

The document is in English with references to the literature in the German, English, and Japanese languages. When the study has been completed and published, Quick Strokes expects to stock copies of it. Some readers will find their own work cited. To reserve reprints, write Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Dvorak conversion for Radio Shack TRS-80 micro-computer, \$10. Information \$2. John Etherton, S. Route, Pinehurst, ID 83850. (208) 682-2172.

DIF election of officers completed

As Quick Strokes goes to press, returns on the election of officers for the Dvorak International Federation were being compiled. Executive committee nominees are, for president, Steve Anderson, attorney, Salem, Oregon; for other offices, Virginia Russell, Brandon, Vermont, Elaine Parry, insurance company word-processing supervisor, Portland, Oregon, and Cheryl MacDonald, Dvorak-skilled operator.

We congratulate DIF on the momentum that was built up under the 1979 officers, Thurman Clark, Helen Baldwin, and Lou Ellen Weld, and we predict more of the same under the new administration. The mail address is P.O. Box 73, Portland, OR 97207.

Letters

Dear Phil: Here is the address you requested. John Q. Adams, Business Information Systems, Inc., Suite 710, Paulsen Bldg., Spokane, WA 99201. John Adams is a member of the Dvorak International Federation. He moved up to Spokane after working with Vydec to provide Dvorak word-processing equipment for the state of Oregon.

In addition to the response to my QS ad from Waldo Boyd, a reader in Austin, Texas, expressed some interest and sent a check. He wants to use the program on a Model II TRS-80. Although that machine uses the same microprocessor chip as the original TRS-80, the operating system is different. If I can get the program to work, it will be one of the first independently produced programs for the new model.

I typed this letter on my TRS-80 system with Dvorak keyboard modification. It was printed on an eight-dollar surplus Teletype.

—JON ETHERTON, Pinehurst, Idaho

Dear Phil: Have been enjoying Quick Strokes very much. Please note new address.

—LITTLEPAIGE WEMPLE, Scarsdale, NY

Dear Phil: I just wanted to congratulate you on how nice the last issue of Quick Strokes looked. Having it set in type really makes it look sharp.

—ROBERT S. PARKINSON, Sunnyvale, CA

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Philip Davis, publisher